

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Orders Regarding Foreign Planes Over Polish Territory

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2. [redacted] the extension of territorial waters [redacted] was said to be three nautical miles from land and [redacted] one nautical mile is 1.7 kilometers. [redacted]

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3. In connection with foreign planes [redacted] a change did take place after the shooting down by the Russians of a Swedish Catalina plane.² Before that time, the orders were as follows:

- a. Two planes were maintained in a state of preparedness, and when a foreign plane was observed on the base's radar screen, the two planes were dispatched from the home base in the direction of the invading plane. The planes flew in battle formation, one behind the other. The pilots kept in constant radio contact with the home base and received their orders from the base.

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- b. In the event the home base directed that the planes should contact the foreign plane and motion it to land, the first of the two planes would fly directly under the foreign craft and give the internationally known dipping of wings movement to indicate the plane should land. This would also signify to the foreign plane that it was over Polish territory. The second Polish plane would fly behind the foreign plane and aim its weapons at it.
- c. If the foreign plane followed the landing orders, everything would be in order. If it should not, the plane behind would send a series of warning shots in front of the foreign plane. If the foreign plane still did not react, the plane behind had orders to shoot, regardless of whether the foreign plane kept to its course or turned back in the direction of its own territory.

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- 4. [redacted] the pilots were told that they would get a medal and be promoted if they shot down a plane. If two planes were shot down, the battalion's commandant received a mention; if three planes were shot down, the division's commandant received a mention, provided the three planes were shot down by pilots of the same division. The result was that the pilots were unanimous in not caring about instructions regarding the course of procedure, but were instilled with the idea of shooting down the enemy plane immediately.

- 5. When a foreign plane is observed over Polish territory by a Polish pilot who is in the air, he will, in line with the new instructions, do the following:
 - a. Contact his home base by radio with a request for orders on how to proceed. The home base will contact headquarters in Warsaw, which will thereafter give orders to the pilot via the home base.
 - b. The pilot will keep in touch with the foreign plane until the orders come, but will do nothing. He will not shoot without orders, even if the enemy plane shoots at him.
 - c. Upon receiving orders to shoot, the Polish pilot will shoot at the foreign plane, regardless of whether the latter has gone beyond Polish territory, for the reason, among other things, that he probably will not himself be aware of whether he finds himself over or outside Polish air territory. Source states that the order to shoot down the enemy plane supposedly will not be given in case the foreign plane is established to be outside Polish territory en route to its own territory. This is regardless of the fact that the foreign plane at an earlier point had been over Polish territory.

- 6. After the episode with the Catalina plane, the instructions were changed so that enemy planes were not to be shot down until the home base had contacted headquarters in Warsaw, and had received orders to shoot. In practice, this means that the foreign plane only risks being shot down if it doesn't follow the signals but continues its flight over Polish territory in spite of the warning shots.

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- 7. [redacted] radar stations in Malbork (Marienburg), Grudziadz, and in Okazywie; in Okazywie there is a radar station of the periscope type.
- 8. There is a Soviet airfield near Kolobrzeg (Kolberg) and one in Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg). Soviet planes are stationed here but they do not perform any actual patrol service. They do start action, in case a foreign plane should fly in over the territory, in the same manner as described above, and they have the right to land at Polish airfields, just as Polish planes can land at Soviet airfields (sic).

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1. [redacted]

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